IT'S SNOW FUN

Photographer's view of Wintercourse '93.

Pages 8 and 9

SPORTS

Niagara hockey team beats Sir Sandford Fleming to qualify for playoffs.

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EDUCATION

Staff writer Tanya Hvilivitzky examines the issue of restructuring.

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NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTRE

Niagara News

Vol. 23, No. 12 Published by the Journalism-Print Program, Niagara College, Welland, Ont. Friday, Feb. 19, 1993 16 pages

Upset students confront Saso

By TROY CLARKE
and STUART KRICK
Staff Writers

Niagara College President John Saso got a surprise visit Friday after students, protesting the proposed school year restructuring, marched from the Tecumseh foyer to his office in Hennepin Hall at the Welland campus.

Stuart McDonald, a first-year Jounalism-Print program student, led about 100 students to Saso's office after urging them to "stop bitching about the decision and walk your talk."

Saso, who delayed a meeting to listen to the students' grievances, told students he is sensitive to their concerns and is committed to ensuring quality education, but at the same time reminded them that high enrolment and government funding have put the Ontario college and university systems in a squeeze.

"Somewhere along the line we have to change the way we do things," Saso said.

McDonald, 25, in an emotional plea, asked the more than 250 students assembled in the Tecumseh foyer to write letters to Saso, David Schleich, vice-president academic, and the Ministry of Education and Training to protest the lengthening of the academic year to 36 weeks from 31 weeks.

He told students to include a photograph of themselves in their letters.

"I want the school administrators and the ministry to see your eyes, so they can see we're not just statistics."

Students have been voicing strong opposition to the blueprint for two 18-week semesters, which would run September to the end of January and February to the beginning of June.

Meanwhile, Jillian Watson, 19, a first-year Journalism-Print program student, told protesters that administrators are not working in the students' best interests.

"We have to get up and stand up for our rights," she said, urging Saso and Schleich to "go back to the drawing board."

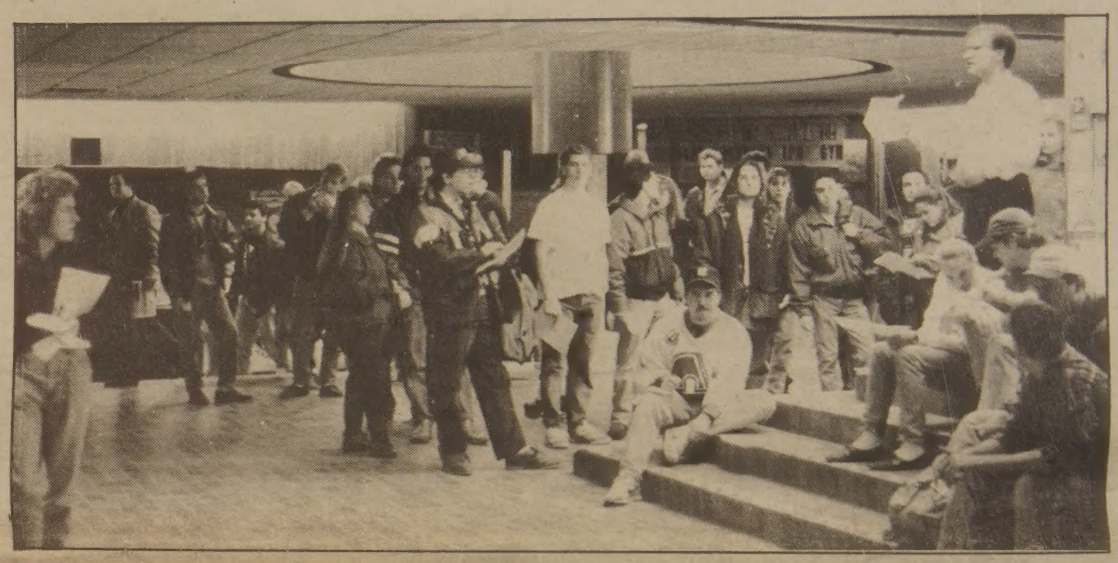
Saso, who joked with the protesters, called his discussion with them a "very professional dialogue," echoing Schleich's comment last week, that he is pleased students are getting actively involved in the education process.

"I will be looking at your faces when I make my decision," he told them.

Saso is expected to make his restructuring decision Feb. 22, but told the protesters the date could be extended to sometime in early March.

After the discussion, McDonald said he remains opposed to the proposal, but added, "Saso and Schleich have convinced me they have the students' best interests at heart."

"I wanted him to see faces, real people with real problems, not just statistics."



Stuart McDonald, 25, a first-year Journalism-Print student and protest organizer, addresses about 200 protesting students in the Tecumseh lobby at the Welland campus prior to moving on to John Saso's office. Students were upset about a proposal to have a 36-week academic year. See more photos on page 3, and commentary on page 5.

Photo by Stuart Krick

Suspect arrested in Mahaffy, French murders

A 28-year-old St. Catharines man has been arrested in connection with the slayings of Kristen French and Leslie Mahaffy and is thought to be responsible for a number of rapes in Scarborough.

Paul Bernardo of Bayview Drive faces 45 charges involving sexual assault, uttering death threats, and other sex-related offences.

A press conference was held yesterday morning at Metro Toronto Police Headquarters, however, police were reluctant to give any specific information and answered "no comment" to the majority of questions.

Niagara Regional Police Inspector Vince Bevan said police are obtaining a search warrant to determine if French was held in Bernardo's home. Bevan cautioned there is still "a long way to go" in the investigation.

Niagara Regional Police confirmed they know the whereabouts of Bernardo's wife, who left him two months ago. But, the police would not comment on whether she is in custody.

Written by Jennifer Barr, Sheri Goodman, Karen Kranjac, Stuart Krick, Roger Stroop, Duncan Warrener.

Bernardo made a brief appearance in a Toronto court this morning showing "no emotion." He entered no plea and was remanded in custody in Toronto until March 2.

"Relief that he was found. But there will be a lot of anguish. The family will have to deal with this all over again. This will open up the wounds again. The whole region has been affected by this," said Grace Brochu of Welland, who knows the French family in St. Catharines.

"They are wonderful down to earth people," she said.

"It's a relief for families and community. Hopefully, it's the right person. It would be a tragedy if they have the wrong one," said Bill Munroe of Welland, an instructor in the Human Relations program.

"Surprised. Glad they found him. Hope he's the right guy. Hope they get the other one," said Blake Bale, 20, of St. Catharines, a first-year Construction Engineering Technology Architecture program student.

Julie Mesi, 18, a fashion merchandising student, believed other cases of abduction didn't receive as much coverage as local cases. "They don't go do that for everyone else," she said.

"I'm glad they found him," said Laureen Ventnor, of Welland, a Niagara College librarian.

"I'm curious as to whether or not they have the right person," said Theresa Krick, 24, a General College program student from West Lincoln.

Continued on Page 5

Early March deadline for Saso's decision

By TROY CLARKE
Staff Writer

Niagara College President John Saso says "there is nothing magical" about the Feb. 22 decision date on school-year restructuring.

But Saso said a decision must be made by "early March" in order to notify incoming students of any changes in the school year length. He would not be more specific about the date.

Saso told about 100 students in and outside his Hennepin Hall office on Friday who protested the extended school year, that administrators are still looking at other alternatives to the restructuring plan.

"We have to be able to inform them (incoming students) by early March," Saso said.

The protest, organized by Stuart McDonald, a first-year Journalism-Print program student, focused on letting college administrators know students are angry about the restructuring proposal, which would extend the year to 36 weeks from 31 weeks.

If approved, the school year would stretch from September to the end of January and from February to the beginning of June.

For the birds...

Every house should have one on the front lawn, figure (clockwise from top left) Amanda Mathews, Adrian Audette, Andrena Misener, Mark Wikobrado and an unidentified volunteer who took time out Saturday to sell pink flamingos outside Niagara Square for charity. Their 700 flamingos were going two for $5. Some must have made their way to a few local moms for Valentine's.

Photo by Kim Morphew

Recipes raises scholars' funds

By SHERI GOODMAN
Staff Writer

Almost 3,000 cookbooks were sold to raise money for the new Niagara Regional Sexual Assault Treatment Centre at St. Catharines General Hospital and the Kristen French Scholarship Fund.

Recipes from the Heart was compiled by three nurses at the St. Catharines General Hospital over the summer.

Niagara College's Human Resources Development office lent a Macintosh computer during the summer to Edith Bacon. Bacon, a nurse at the hospital, used the computer to compose the book which contains over 300 recipes.

"The whole cookbook in a sense was donated. There's donated time. The amount of time that Edith spent is phenomenal. And there have been hundreds of people who have spent time selling books," said Ed Wilson, a Niagara College human resources development consultant.

Halton Printing in Burlington, Ont., donated the paper and time to print 3,000 copies.

Most of the books were sold before Christmas, Wilson said, adding that hospital staff members took the books and sold them to friends and family.

'A major source of sales was word of mouth'

"Booths were set up at the local malls, but the major source of the sales were from word of mouth and interested people," he said.

About 50 books were sold at the college.

Most of the money will go to the Sexual Assault Treatment Centre at the St. Catharines General Hospital. The money will be used to furnish and decorate the centre in the new wing of the hospital.

"I think there will be an inscription or a plaque with a picture that's dedicated to Kristen French," Wilson said.

"St. Catharines is reeling from not only Kristen French but the young girl who was murdered the other day. It's one thing after another. And I think, particularly for Kristen French, there was a real outpouring of a need to do something to redress the balance; to pick up the pieces and I think that it's resulted in a number of projects and good causes. This is just one of them," Wilson said.

Copies of the cookbook are still available through Wilson at the Human Resources office in the library at the Welland campus.

Kiss the Flame

By Heather D. Hodgson
Law and Security Administration Program
Special to Niagara News

When examining the issues of impaired operation, there are three key areas where people can take responsibility: driver, passenger, and party host.

Most people are content to think of this as a legal problem . . . let the police and courts handle it. However, impaired operation is a social problem.

The driver has a responsibility to remain sober or to arrange for a designated driver, a cab or to stay over. One of the problems is, when alcohol or drugs are ingested, judgment is one of the first things to be affected. The driver is incapable of judging his or her ability to operate the vehicle. In some cases, impaired drivers actually believe that their driving ability is enhanced by the alcohol or drugs in their system. This assumption has been proven incorrect by scientific studies.

Night vision, ability to judge distance, reaction time, attention span and other brain functions that are taken for granted, but required for the safe operation of a motor vehicle are affected by the consumption of alcohol or other drugs.

On average, for a health person, it takes about one hour for your body to get rid of one alcoholic beverage (shot of liquor, five ounces of wine, bottle of beer). The alcohol is entering your blood from the moment it enters your mouth. Most is absorbed from the stomach and large intestine. Once in the blood, it goes through the brain, affecting the various centres. It is processed through the liver, and finally, leaves in your urine. Nothing can speed up the process, not even sports or sex or any other myth you've heard. Coffee only stimulates the brain, so you get a wide awake drunk.

As discussed in the previous column, depending upon your system, you could be impaired after one alcoholic beverage, even though you are not in excess of the legal limit. Further, you could have alcohol in excess of the legal limit and not show the usual signs of impairment. In either case, you could be convicted of the appropriate charge.

Passengers fall prey to impaired drivers by not planning ahead or not standing up for their rights. Spouses, children, dates, friends may get into the vehicle assuming that the driver is capable of driving. Later, at the morgue, it is too late to change their mind. The simple rule of thumb is to think of your own safety.

A person who is under the influence of alcohol cannot reason. Make arrangements before you go out and stick to them. Always carry some emergency funds for calling someone else to pick you up or a cab. If you drive, perhaps you could agree before the party that you will drive home. YOU remain sober and become the designated driver. Don't fall into the trap of going along to make sure that the driver will be okay, unless you are sober and drive. A passenger, no matter how great the intentions are, may only double load for the ambulance or body wagon if a collision results.

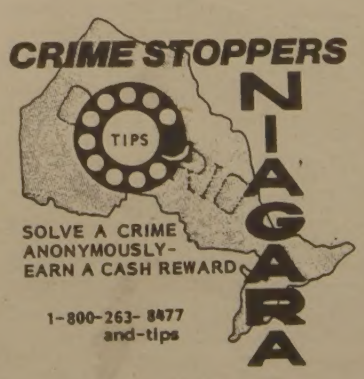
Are you strong enough to stand up for your rights? Can YOU say no to a ride home because your safey comes first? You know your friends . . . or do you? Would a friend put you in danger? You control your life. Make sure that your decisions are focused on what is right for you.

Next issue: Who is responsible? Part II.

Two robberies in Waterloo linked to Niagara

This week Crime Stoppers of Niagara has teamed up with Waterloo Regional Police investigators to try and solve two robberies. Although the robberies occurred in the Waterloo Region, they are linked to Niagara.

Shortly before 9 p.m. on March 24, 1992, a 1986 Oldsmobile four-door, red, was stolen from in front of the Victoria Variety Store, Glenridge Plaza, St. Catharines. The vehicle was used by a thug who on the evening of April 4, 1992 robbed an employee of the Bi-Way Department Store, Conestoga Mall, Waterloo, of its night deposit bag.



The suspect, described as male white, 25 to 30 years old, 6'O", 160 to 180 pounds, clean shaven, black hair, was armed with a handgun.

At approximately 9:15 p.m., Sept. 27, 1992, a 1984 Dodge Aries, four-door, blue, was stolen from the parking lot of People's Variety, 3566 Portage Rd., Niagara Falls, Ont. Once again, the vehicle was taken to the Waterloo area and used during a robbery.

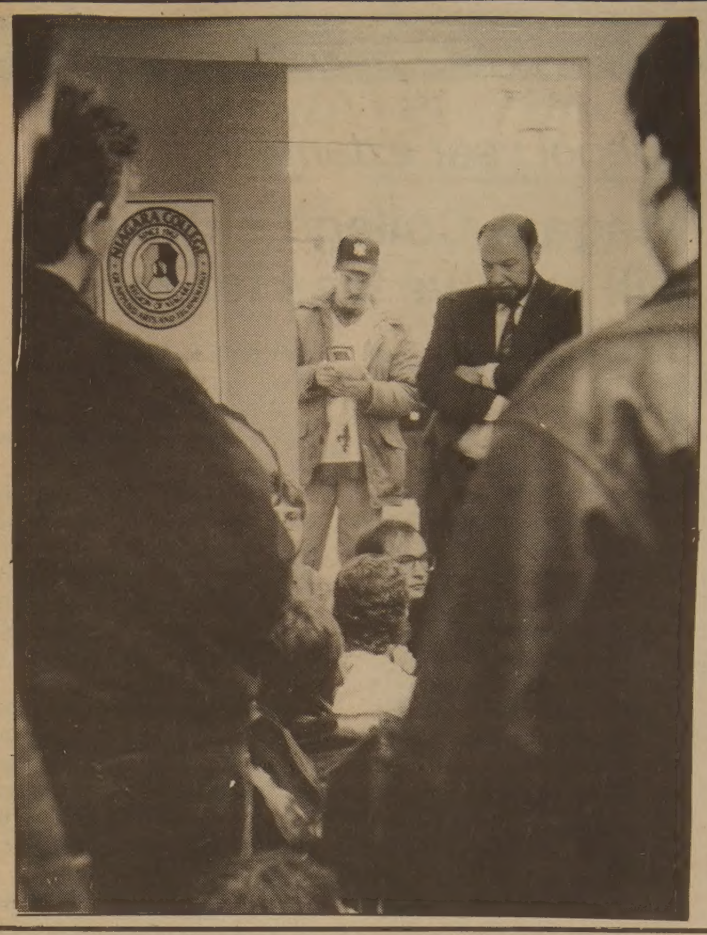
On Nov. 5, 1992 at 9:30 p.m., the Bi-Way Store, Conestoga Mall, became the victim of its second night deposit hold-up.

This time witnesses described the thug as being a white male, late 20s to early 30s, 5'8" to 5'9" tall, 140 to 160 pounds, light blond curly hair. His accomplice, who was driving the stolen vehicle, is described as a white male, 40 to 50 years old, long straight grey hair, wearing square shaped black rimmed glasses.

During both the April and November robberies, the stolen vehicles were dumped by thieves a short distance from the crime scene.

If you have information regarding these robberies, or any other crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-263-8477, that's 1-800-AND-TIPS to be eligible for a cash award up to $1,000. In all cases, you will not have to reveal your identity.

The Niagara Regional Police in co-operation with Crime Stoppers Niagara Inc. writes this column to help combat crime. A citizen board administers the local program. Reward money is raised through tax deductible donations. Cheques may be sent to Crime Stoppers of Niagara Inc., P. O. Box 1086, St. Catharines, Ont. L2R 7A3.



Protest raises awareness

The student protest against the extended academic term, last Friday, made administration aware of heated opposition to the proposal. At left: Stuart McDonald, (with glasses) first-year Journalism-Print program student; Troy Clarke, (with notepad) Niagara News staff writer; and Niagara College President John Saso. Saso listens to students' grievances in his waiting room at Hennepin Hall. Centre: Saso and McDonald discuss issues in the doorway of Saso's office as students leave after the sit-in. Right: McDonald orates to the more than 200 students unhappy with the proposed extended school-year in the Tecumseh lobby on Friday, Feb. 12.

Photos by Stuart Krick

OSAP tightening the squeeze

By ARLENE ARCH
Staff Writer

Students receiving money from the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), but who did not attend classes regularly last fall, are likely to be notified and put on a list that restricts them from receiving OSAP for two years.

The Verification Office of the Ministry of Education and Training has been contacting students who registered in fall 1992 post-secondary programs, but neglected to attend classes and achieve academic requirements.

The Verification Office operates from two locations, Thunder Bay and Toronto. When a student avoids attending classes, he is reported to the office in Thunder Bay. A letter is sent to that student informing him he has been put on a restricted list and his OSAP payments will be discontinued for two years. But, in order to qualify for additional OSAP, the student must be registered in a post-secondary program at his own expense, must attend classes regularly and achieve accademically, meaning he must receive the credit for the course. After the two-year trial period, OSAP may be awarded term-by-term until the student proves his attitude has changed.

'Students not attending class must be reported'

The Toronto location deals with more serious cases, such as fraud. The office executes a thorough investigation and decides if charges should be laid. If the case warrants it, the RCMP are called in.

"Students not attending class must be reported," says Kathy Borisenko, financial aid offficer at Niagara College. She said the number of students who are "less than committed to their studies" has risen in the last two years. Borisenko said students who become ill must notify the financial aid office in writing. "There's even a statement to that effect on the OSAP form signed by the students."

Car Walk being used by students

By SHERI GOODMAN
Staff Writer

More people are taking advantage of the Car Walk program; the escort service provided by the college's Law and Security Administration program students.

"The number of escorts are up. People are being more cautious," said Linda Maidens, Niagara College's building services supervisor.

Some people ask the college's security guards to walk them out to their vehicles and Maidens encourages people to use the program and the security guards' services.

Students and staff are being more cautious because of the recent attack on a woman at the Seaway Mall.

The woman, 25, was forced into her car at gunpoint and ordered to drive to a secluded spot along Towpath Road. She was sexually assaulted and locked in the trunk of her car, which was abandoned at the Seaway Mall. She was let out one half hour later.

"They're being more cautious because it's a little too close to home," Maidens said.

The Car Walk program involves about 25 first, second, and third-year LASA students.

Newest SAC member arranges social events

Brad Billard, a first-year Buisiness Administration program student, is the new vice-president of social affairs on the Niagara College student council.

Photo by Sue Harvey

By SUE HARVEY
Staff Writer

Brad Billard, 20, is the new vice-president of social affairs on the student council.

Billard, a St. Catharines resident, is a first-year Business Administration program student. He graduated in 1992 from the recently closed Grantham High School in St. Catharines. While in his last year at the high school, Billard was the student council president.

In October 1992, Billard was selected to be one of three student representatives to sit on the Student Administrative Council. The position requires the representative to attend all weekly SAC meetings, and participate in SAC related events. The student is also eligible to vote on all SAC issues discussed at council meetings.

When Steve Berketo, the former vice-president of social affairs, resigned in October, he was replaced by Channon Dilts, a second-year Manufacturing Engineering Technology program student.

Billard, as a student representative, took over the position in Janurary when Dilts left for co-op.

"For what he's done so far, he has done very well," said SAC President Dale Deloughery.

'I think council has been really successful as of late...'

Billard helped organize the advertising campaign for the Christmas bash and is already working on plans for the year-end bash. Last month he organized Saturday night pubs at Front 54 in Thorold. Billard is working on a number of events over the next month, including another Yuk Yuk's comedy night, booking the band Moxy Fruvous, and running the Nintendo tournament during Wintercourse.

"I think council has been really successful as of late. Bob Lambert was a big success," said Billard.

SAC voted during Lambert's performance, and decided to pay him an extra undisclosed amount to play longer. Donna Flutur, After Hours manager, booked Lambert to play in the student centre.

"Casey Bones was also a big success. And it looks like Wintercourse will be a success," said Billard. Although many of SAC's latest events have been supported by students, "I would like to see more student involvement in SAC-sponsored activities," said Billard.

During the summer, Billard plans to take business courses at Brock University in St. Catharines; he also wants to find full-time employment.

After graduating from Niagara, Billard plans to attend the four-year honors B.A. program at Brock. By taking spring courses, Billard said he hopes that he can complete his business program here in two years. "I'd love to own my own business, but with the economy who knows," he said.

Billard confirmed he will run for the position he now holds when the SAC elections are held April 14.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

Tougher sentences needed

Several police forces have recently decided to release the names of offenders they deem dangerous to the community. There can be little doubt the decision was made largely as a result of growing public fear of violent crime. However, these decisions indicate the increased frustration felt by police as convicted criminals are released after serving small portions of already-lenient sentences.

What is needed are tougher sentences with better assessment and treatment, along with little, or no, opportunities for parole for dangerous, convicted criminals.

One has to wonder what the rush is to allow convicted criminals — especially those who have commited violent crimes — back into society.

"It has come to the point innocent people are becoming prisoners in their own homes," said Vince Grant, president of the recently formed Families Against Crime Today Society, in an interview with Canadian Press. "Victims are violated of their rights and the accused are escorted through the court system in a golden tunnel of minimum sentencing and penalties."

Solicitor General Doug Lewis announced this week that a new law which would keep high risk sex offenders in prison indefinitely could be in place by June. The law would require violent sexual offenders to stand trial before their release to determine whether they are safe or should be held for treatment. It is a step in the right direction.

While the Canada's justice system — with its emphasis on equality — is one of the best in the world, it can, and must, be improved. Placing less emphasis on the rights of convicted criminals so that law-abiding citizens can safely walk the streets — although it is long overdue — is a good place to start.

Patrick Aselstine

Financing laws limit freedoms

The House of Commons' Special Committee on Electoral Reform will limit Canadians' right to freedom if its proposed legislation on financing election campaigns is passed.

The committee has proposed a $1,000 limit on spending by an individual or a group which supports or opposes a political party or candidate. Not only is there a limit, but anyone breaking this law could serve up to five years in prison.

The National Citizens Coalition has an appropriate name for this latest dictatorship type law; they call it the gag law.

This law would greatly affect election campaigns for parties who are not yet financially stable or minority groups who want to question and protest discriminatory legislation. How can these groups be heard with a $1,000 spending cap?

This law will restrict people's basic freedom. Does the government have a right to tell Canadians where their political dollars should go? How can we defend ourselves against political reforms the big three political parties decide on?

The people who supported and developed fund-raising for the "no" vote in the past constitutional reform debate, without the help of the three large political parties, would not be heard the next time around. This bill would not allow any opposition. What makes the federal government think that democracy can be monopolized?

Those countries who have abandoned communist ideology will not look to Canada as an example of a democratic society if this type of government intervention continues.

Samantha Magill

School year extension

Niagara College students will receive less for more

By TANYA HVILIVITZKY
Staff Writer

Students face the fear of paying more and receiving less, says Joan Hastings-Dove, president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) at the college, which represents about 250 full-time faculty.

If the proposed extension of the school year goes through, coupled with higher tuition fees and less financial assistance, students will receive less for more, she said.

At a recent OPSEU Local 242 membership meeting attended by about 100 full-time faculty, there was a general concensus the impending decision is "ill-advised," she said.

"This will jeopardize quality of education for the students because of management's plan to not only increase the length of the college year, but also at the same time reduce hours with programs and encourage students to take part of their programs at night through Continuing Education."

Although students will still be paying the full-time tuition rate, she added.

"Faculty have maintained that educational costs are not the major problem at our college," said Hastings-Dove. "It is a top-heavy administrative structure. Administrative costs exceed educational costs in the college system.

"We are seriously concerned about the 'divide and conquer' tactics being used by management and the fact that these decisions seriously impact upon the future of the college system as a whole," Hastings-Dove said.

She said full-time faculty will continue to be open to all concerns and are taking all points of view under advisement.

"The final decision; however, is management's."

Stop and smell the flowers

Heidi Rathwell, a first-year Interior Design program student, raises money for a class trip by selling flowers. Second and third year students are planning a September trip to New York City or Chicago.

Photo by Kim Morphew

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Faculty, students respond to arrest of Kristen French murder suspect

Continued from Page 1

"I was so glad it happened. I doubted it ever would. I'm glad it's finally wrapped up. Everyone can feel good for the family because now they can put it all behind them," said Derek McFarland, 23, of Welland, a third-year Business Administration program student.

"Everybody's relieved. I don't know if it's the guy, but it puts everyone's mind at ease," said Larry Anderson, 24, a third-year Marketing Management program student.

Police barricade the Port Dalhousie home of Paul Bernardo.
Photo by Patrick Aselstine

"I'm certainly glad they have finally been able to find the person. I hope they find the other person if there is another one. You can't print what I think should be done to the culprits," said Barbara Fonfara, 54, of Wainfleet, marketing assistant at the college.

Kim Coles, 17, of Welland, is a Centennial High School student on co-op in the college's Marketing Department. She said she feels relieved and safer.

Second-year student Amanda Matthews, 19, from the Fashion Marketing Visual Promotions program who lives in St. Catharines, said she is two minutes from the abduction point, where French was taken.

"I'm relieved but I don't think this city will be relaxed anymore. They'll still be cautious," said Matthews.

"I think it's wonderful that they found someone. I hope this is the guilty man. Hopefully, they find the other person," said Sally Hart, 22, General College program student from Dunnville.

"I'm glad they got him. It's a relief for the family. I would personally like to meet him with a 45 in my hand," said General College program student Paul Santo, 21, from St. Catharines.

"I'm just happy that it's close to over," said first-year Health Records Technician program student Cindy Blakey, 31, of St. Catharines.

Rose DiPietro, 21, a first-year Accounting co-op program student from St. Catharines, said, "It's nice to know they have him off the streets, if it is really him."

Asked whether or not this arrest vindicates the Niagara Regional Police, Dipietro said she felt the Metro Toronto Police had more to do with the arrest.

"It really doesn't say anything for the police in St. Catharines," she said.

Protest in Saso's office therapeutic for students

By STUART KRICK
Staff Writer

Niagara College students held an event with ancient roots: a protest.

Disgruntled by a proposal for a lengthened school-year, the students made themselves heard in the only way possible.

Comment

Referring to Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi, and non-violent confrontation as a means of addressing issues of dispute, Stuart McDonald, 25, spoke to students last Friday, reminding them of their collective power and their ability to use a protest to affect decisions made at the college.

McDonald then led the students on a march to President John Saso's office, where they filled his waiting room. Sitting crosslegged, reminiscent of Gandhi and the peaceful protests that galvinized the nation of India to throw off the British yoke, the students demanded an audience with Saso.

Not one to be too busy to communicate with students, Saso listened to the grievances, both the relevant and the irrelevant.

Saso said he is sensitive to the students' concerns and is doing his utmost to ensure quality education, but reminded them the college system in Ontario is being squeezed by the federal and provincial governments.

The focus of the protest was the extended school-year plan, but many students also expressed dissatisifaction with the quality of education they are receiving in some of their classes.

Having paid hard-earned money to receive an education, some students feel they have thrown their money away. Inadequate equipment and supplies, large classes and erratic hours were some of the major complaints.

But Saso said while Niagara College's enrolment has increased by 60 per cent in the last two years, at the same time there has been a decrease in government funding.

This all means the college must make do with what it now has.

The administrators of the colleges and universities have pleaded with the Ontario government, telling Queen's Park they are vital to Ontario's renewed growth. And yet, despite the pleading, the government reduces funding and reneges on its promises.

There seems to be a certain amount of disregard being projected by Queen's Park towards the educational system in Ontario. It's as though the NDP doesn't realize that in this high-tech, global-trade environment of the 1990s, skills development is the tool that drives a nation into prosperity. Without skilled workers, Ontario will fade to a Third World nation.

And yet, Niagara College plugs on. Storms may rage, but it has a good foundation. The college has more than $50 million in assets and inventory and an operating budget of $47 million. More than 4,500 full-time students are enrolled at the college.

The administration, led by Saso and David Schliech, vice-president academic, is looking the future straight in the eye and making moves to adjust to a changing environment.

Although they are caught between dissatisfied students and a far-away government, the administration is still committed to a standard of excellence that will make graduates of Niagara College employable in transforming new industries.

Despite government cutbacks, the college is performing its task. But students, facility and administration are bearing the burden of these constrained times.

All in all, the protest seemed to be therapeutic for the students. Many left with smiles on their faces, satisfied they had been noticed. Saso told the students he would be thinking of their faces when he makes his decision.

Of course, this protest didn't shake heaven or earth. In fact, the provincial government will have no problem ignoring this event altogether. But, if the faith of a mustard seed can move a mountain, and if quantum mechanics is right in saying all things interconnect, then the students may have accomplished more than they realize.

Studies, work and social life make difficult juggling act

By KATHERINE AGNEW
Staff Writer

It seems to me that students get a bad deal. But then again, I might be biased.

Students have to balance the time demands of a social life, school, and work. Balancing the latter is like walking on a tightrope. It is a double-edged sword. You use time to work that 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. shift to get the money to go to school, but then you don't have a lot of time to do the academic work, to get the marks to go to school. It isn't easy.

But most of all, students have to deal with employers whose only concern is money and who have finessed the art of exploiting student workers. It is hard to find a job these days; perhaps that is the "blackmail" employers like the most. "You can only make minimum wage, but would you rather be in the ranks of the unemployed? HA HA! HEE HEE!"

Hmm.... So students continue to work for little pay, little recognition, and even less of a sense of protection.

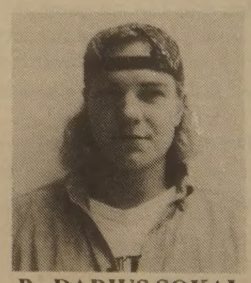
If it is a "jungle" out there, then students are the monkeys swinging from tree to tree, being tracked by the relentless and remorseless tiger. Did I say it isn't easy out there?

If I sound bitter, it is because I feel like that monkey right now; I'm trapped by the threat of unemployment and unfamiliarity of my rights.

I guess that's the answer. In the jungle out there you have to look after yourself and protect your own rights. Now the monkeys have to find out what these are.

Another job to add to the list. It seems to me that students get a bad deal. But then, I may be biased.

North America needs to play catch-up



By DARIUS SOKAL
Staff Writer

On Feb. 9, 1993, the Dutch parliament passed legislation allowing doctors to perform euthanasia under specific conditions. On the same day, retired pathologist Dr. Jack Kevorkian assisted in the suicide of a blind, wheelchair dependant woman stricken with terminal multiple sclerosis in Southfield, Mich.

It was the 12th assisted suicide for "Dr. Death," his sixth since the Michigan state legislature passed a law banning assisted suicide effective March 30, 1993.

This clearly represents the difference in direction that some European and North American governments are heading.

The Netherlands is among the most liberal nations in the world, the government having a contemporary attitude towards contemporary issues, such as drugs and prostitution.

It's time governments admit some of the methods are stagnant and dated

The Dutch modify statutes in their laws to try to accommodate and deal with modern day society's problems, instead of outright banning certain practices which can be considered normal human behavior.

It's time North American governments admit that some of the methods they use are stagnant and dated. It's time they realize that laws written with religious overtones and a 16th century mentality are ineffective in modern society.

Technically, euthanasia will remain a crime in the Netherlands, but doctors will have guaranteed immunity from prosecution. Doctors must follow strict guidelines, based on a 28-point checklist. The main points are that the patient must be terminally ill, suffering extreme pain, and a coroner must be notified.

Humans have the right to make decisions which concern their health, even when it includes the voluntary ending of a life. It's selfish to force a person to suffer intolerable pain for the sake of law or medicine.

Exhibit represents casualties of Gulf War

By KATHERINE AGNEW
Staff Writer

One hundred thousand, the number alone is meaningless. One hundred thousand faces though, is staggering. 100,000 Faces is a winding maze of a mural that represents the people who died and continue to die because of the Persian Gulf War.

The exhibit, on display until this week at St. Thomas Anglican Church, 99 Ontario St. in St. Catharines, is the project of Jennifer Lindberg, from San Antonio, Tex. With help from Mennonite Mission boards, Lindberg wanted to portray the faces behind the statistics to help the public remember those 100,000 lives that were lost in the war. One hundred thousand was the first estimate of casualties. Later estimates placed the figure between 200,000 to 300,000 casualties. People of Iraq continue to die because of war-related causes.

The mural, 260-square metres, is made up of pictures from magazines. Cybill Shepard and Jack Nicholson are shown, but so are thousands of other men, women and children of all races. Some of the people are portrayed as very happy as they play, hug, or laugh; others are shown as unhappy and afraid as they cry or scream. The result leaves people with an unavoidable feeling of deep loss and incredulity.

100,000 Faces is a winding maze of a mural ...

Lindberg's personal hope for the exhibit is to raise awareness and "sober us some" so people do not get "caught up in patriot furmors." The exhibit is also in protest of the media who were caught up in powerful euphemisms and failed to give the public both sides of the tragedy, said Lindberg. The exhibit does not represent 100,000 Iraqi soldiers who were killed in the Gulf War, as reported by the St. Catharines Standard, but all casualties, added Lindberg.

Lindberg, who will be travelling throughout the United States, will be in Ottawa and Quebec for the rest of February and then to New York in March.

100,000 Faces is a mural representing the 100,000 casualties of the Persian Gulf War. The mural is the project of Jennifer Lindberg, from San Antonio, Tex., and was shown at St. Thomas Anglican Church in St. Catharines.

Photo by Katherine Agnew

Rae of sunshine for Canadian education

By TANYA HVILIVITZKY
Staff Writer

Premier Bob Rae's decision last week to streamline his cabinet ministries is a positive step for colleges and universities, says David Schleich, Niagara College's vice-president academics.

The province's new "superministry" will enhance communication, identify duplications and if anything, emphasize how urgently the colleges and universities need to restructure, he said.

Gone is the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and Minister Richard Allen, who was replaced by Dave Cooke, a former social worker and Windsor school trustee.

"Mr. Cooke has said publicly on a number of occasions that we need to increase access and this has to do with the government's commitment to providing training and education to the widest group of people possible," Schleich said.

"If you've got skills development, education, colleges and universities all under the same umbrella, then restructuring possibilities increase."

And because the minister will be responsible for everything, there'll be a unified perspective on funding, access, future training needs, and communication, Schleich said.

Niagara is currently planning the same kind of access in the Social Services program as well as other programs in the college, he added.

Schleich said the restructuring proposals, budgets, and all reports will now go through to the Ministry of Education and Training through Charles Pascal, the deputy minister.

Niagara College training program helps unemployed in region

By JENNIFER HERR
Staff Writer

Long-term unemployed francophones in the Niagara Region can gain employment-oriented skills through Niagara College's French Language Services (FLS) and Formation de Base de l'Ontario (Ontario Basic Skills or FBO).

The program offers "academic upgrading with a health care focus," says Anne Audet Giroux, FLS director. It is "jointly delivered by L'ecole secondaire Confederation, the French language high school in Welland, and Niagara College," she says.

Ontario Basic Skills is offered province-wide to assist the long-term unemployed, those who have either run out of unemployment insurance benefits or are receiving social assistance, to gain employment skills and upgrade academic proficiency.

The training program works at four levels, says Giroux. The first stage is entitled ABC-Community Literacy, and is aimed at improving reading comprehension levels. The second phase of the program encourages pre-employment training, and along with working on job search skills, students are encouraged to upgrade French, English, math, science and computer skills with the possible aim of college preparation.

FBO also offers a Labor Adjustment program to encourage unemployed workers to gain new skills in areas different than they have previously been trained. The fourth stage is entry into the FBO program, which allows participants to gain high school equivalency on a full or part-time basis. This four-step organization will provide "continuity in learning and wets the appetite to go further," says Giroux.

The 20-week program is offered at no cost to eligible applicants and is held at l'ecole secondaire Confederation on Tanguay Avenue in Welland.

Funds for FBO will be provided by the Ontario government. Employers in the area are encouraged to employ participants through government subsidy.

'We are trying to offer all of our clients the opportunity to enlarge on their learning.'
- Giroux

Giroux said she hopes to expand the program into an Office Administration-General course, possibly implemented by September. The FLS department is awaiting program approval from the Ontario government.

"We are trying to offer all of our clients the opportunity to enlarge on their learning," says Giroux.

Now you see it, now you don't

By SHERI GOODMAN
Staff Writer

A purse and a laptop computer were lost at Niagara College's Welland campus.

"I get calls on a daily basis saying 'I left my brand new book I just bought yesterday and it's gone.'

We do get things turned in, but I have no way of knowing what percentage we're getting as opposed to what's lost," said Linda Maidens, Niagara College's building services supervisor.

If there is identification in the book, the security office calls the registrar's office to make sure the person is a student and then Maidens will try to contact the student.

"I don't know if people have too much on their mind or are overloaded with courses, but they're definitely being careless," she said.

Maidens reminds students not to bring valuables and large sums of money to school.

Look cool in school leather

By DARREN ESAU
Staff Writer

"The Fonz" is coming! "The Fonz" is coming!

Gary Wilson, of Export Leather in Toronto, will be at the college on Tuesday, Feb. 23, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. selling leather Niagara College jackets to students.

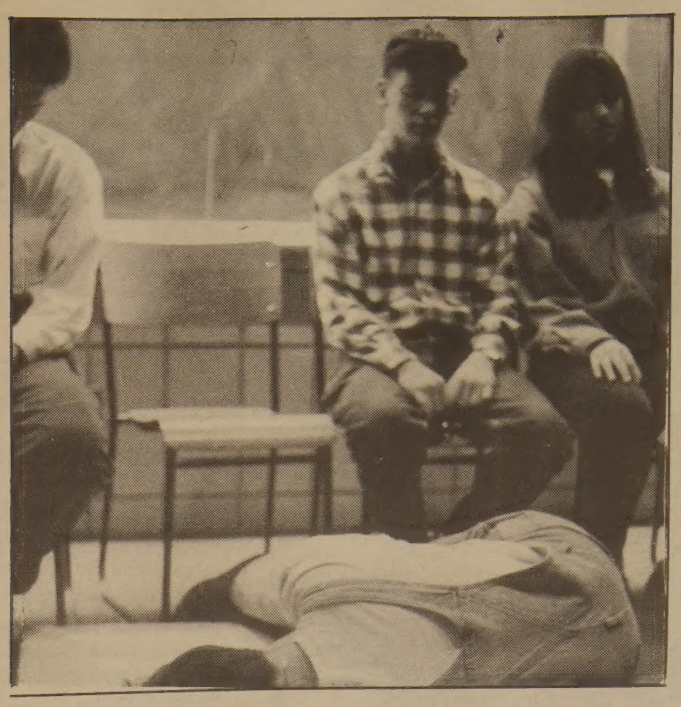
Mary Cunningham, manager of the Niagara College Bookstore, has been impressed with Wilson's service in the past. She said he is capable of making these jackets in any color and any style, adding that last year he even a sold a leather jacket in red.

Aaaaaaaaaaaay!

"Students have always been pleased with his service," said Cunningham, referring to Wilson's willingness to please the buyer. She also said when students are shelling out that kind of money, it is important they are satisfied with their purchase.

Although there will be a slight price fluctuation depending on the style of the jacket, the regular price will be $294, not including tax. But a $150 deposit is required on Tuesday.

Cunningham realizes many students may not have the cash to make such a purchase at this time. However, she encourages students to visit the bookstore next Tuesday and see the styles of jackets that are available.



Martin Blouian, hypnotized off chair.
Photo by Duncan Warrener

Brad Billiard, 20, lays down under hypnosis.
Photo by Duncan Warrener

Hypnotist dazzles students

By SAMANTHA MAGILL
Staff Writer

The volunteer rips his shirt off and starts to bump and grind like a stripper in front of a crowd of screaming women. He slowly slips his pants off to give the audience a peek at his Calvin's. He smiles and gives the crowd a wink.

Suddenly the word "release" is called out. With shirt in hand and confused as to why he is undressed in front of a crowd of people, he scurries back to his chair.

He's not in the twilight zone, but in the hands of the Toronto-based hypnotist Casey Bones.

Bones, who performed for a standing room only crowd in Niagara College's Hamilton Room on Feb. 11, hypnotized several students into believing they were, among other things, on a dream vacation, other people, a musician, attacked by Jaws, hit by a frisbee and in a horse race and more. Imagine seeing grown people vigorously acting out the scenes they see in their mind.

One female student thought she was a pinch-hitter for the Toronto Blue Jays and had just hit a grand slam home run to win a large cash prize. When informed by Bones that she would only receive doughnuts, she frowned, placed her hands on hips, and sat down.

Students acted out scenes in their minds

The volunteers, who stampeded to the stage chairs when asked to volunteer, were "aware of everything that was happening to them while they were in a post-hypnotic state," said Bones.

Bones first relaxed all of the volunteers into a state of post-hypnotic suggestion. He than began to describe to the volunteers the scenes they would see in their mind. Most who followed the instructions given by Bones, gave the audience a dose of comedic entertainment. The word "release" was used by Bones to snap the students out of their trance.

"That was the most hysterical thing I ever saw," said Wendy Waugh, 19, a Business Administration program student.

Before the show ended, Bones made sure the volunteers believed they had been in the library studying while the show was going on.

When Martin Blouian, 19, also a Business Administration program student and volunteer, was asked how he felt after being hypnotized, he convincingly answered: "I don't know I was in the library studying."

Being a hypnotist is a full-time job for Bones, who has traveled throughout North America hypnotizing people in a comical way.

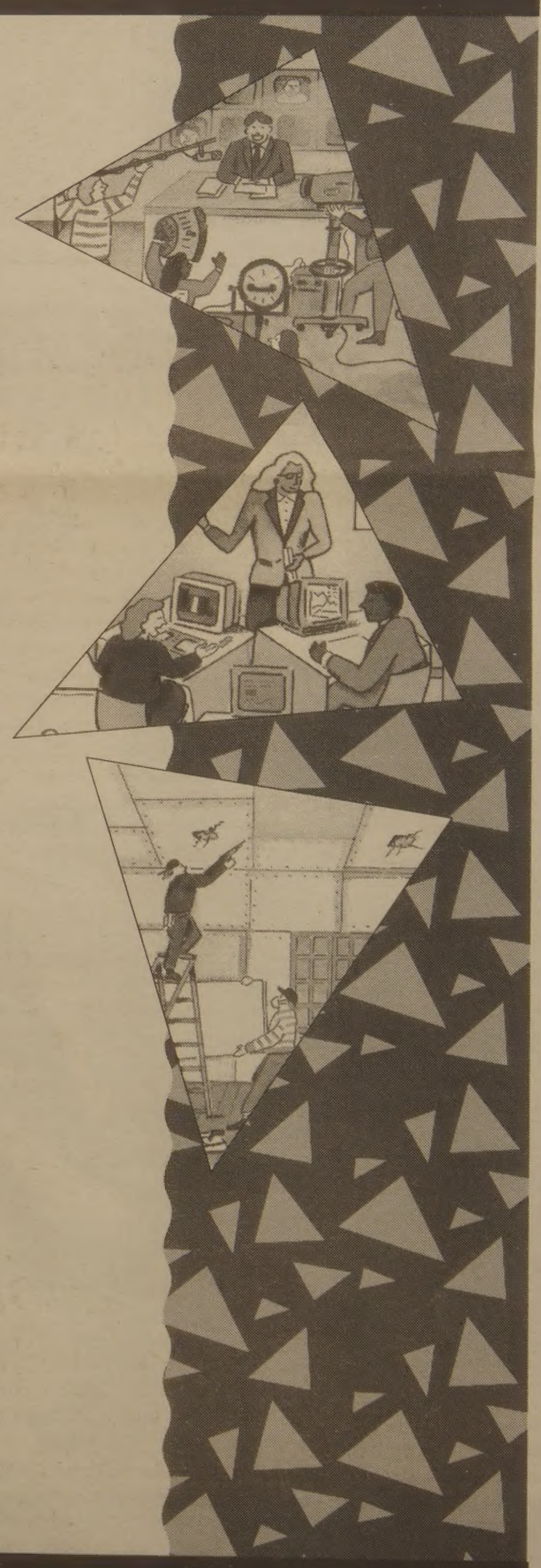
"I used to book people who did these types of shows about 10 years ago, so I decided to study psychology and get into doing it. I've been doing it for about seven years now. Some weeks I can book up to nine shows," he said.

SMALL BUSINESS ONTARIO

STUDENT VENTURE

START A VENTURE
CREATE YOUR OWN JOB

BE YOUR OWN BOSS



As a student you'll probably be looking for a job next summer. You might be thinking about starting your own business but don't know how to get it off the ground.

The Ontario government has a program that can help you. It's called "**Student Venture**". And it offers Ontario students wishing to own and operate summer businesses a start-up loan **of up to $3,000 interest free.**

Applications and brochures can be picked up at your local Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, Business Self-help Offices and at your guidance or placement office.

Or you can call us on our **Youth Hotline** at

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We can give you all of the details.

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Contributing to future successes
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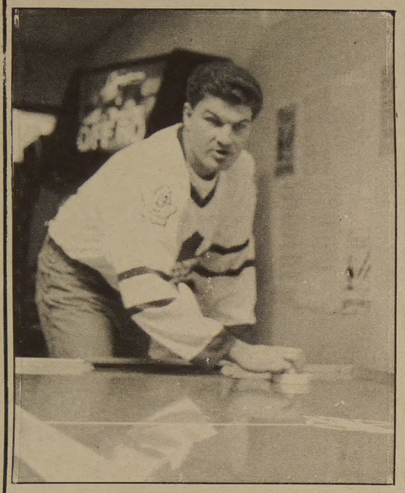
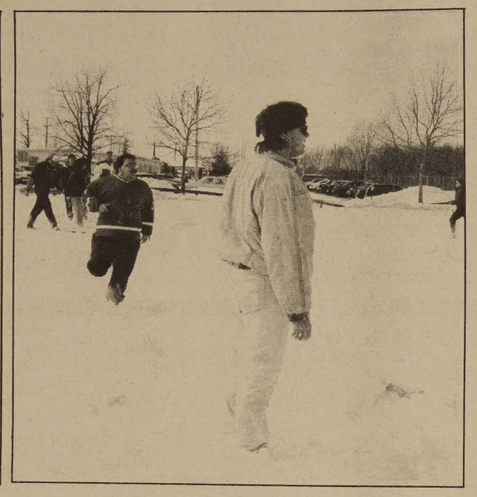
Student Venture is a program sponsored by the Government of Ontario, in cooperation with the Royal Bank of Canada, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and local participating Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade.

Ontario

Information disponible en français.

WINTERCOURSE '93





Breaking out of the cabin fever this winter, Niagara College's students took to the snow covered fields this week at Welland campus for games of skill and chance such as Earthball and sno-pitch. Others stayed indoors challenging their personal bests in Nintendo, blind volleyball and karaoke. Plunging into Lake Gibson is slated for today.

Photos by Duncan Warrener

By ROGER STROOP
and DUNCAN WARRENER
Staff Writers

A flying plastic disc, an oversized beach ball, and an old Monkees allbum.

These were just some of the many things observed during the first three days of Niagara College's Wintercourse 1993, sponsored by the Student Administrative Council.

The event began Monday morning, as members of student teams picked up lists for the scavenger hunt. Later that day, the game room at After Hours was the site for the air hockey tournament, where students tested their reflexes and, on several occasions, sent the plastic puck flying across the room.

"Pretty intense," was how 20-year-old Frank Erhardt, a first-year General College program student, who was eliminated in the first round, described the tournament.

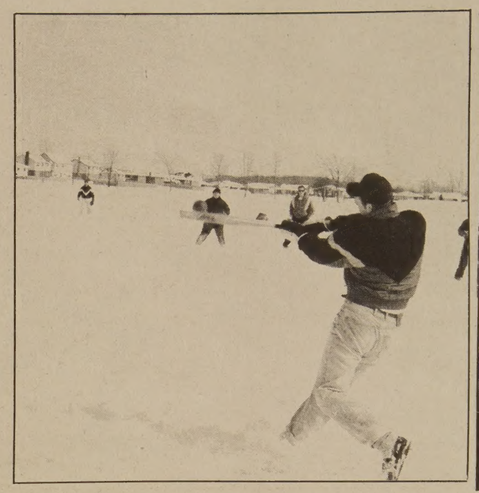
On Tuesday, three student teams took to the field behind the student centre for the earthball challenge. The effort involved in trying to move the huge ball to the opposing took a visible toll on the participants, and only one goal was scored during the two games played.

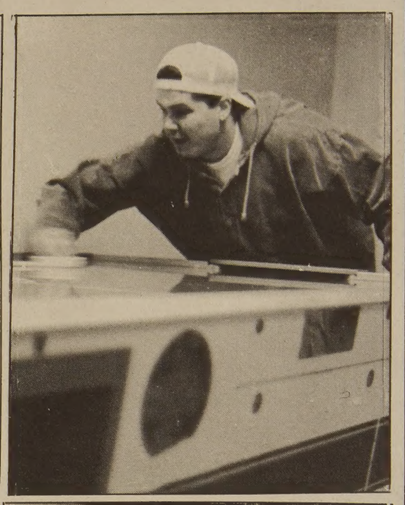
Asked about the earthball event, second-year Human Resources program student John McQuarrie, 21, stated: "It's fun, I guess, if you can stand up to it."

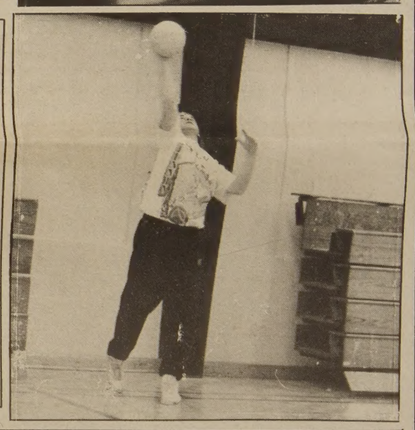
Wednesday noon was the deadline for submissions for the scavenger hunt. Teams turned in for points such items as Monopoly games, Elvis stamps, the aforementioned Monkees album, and street signs.

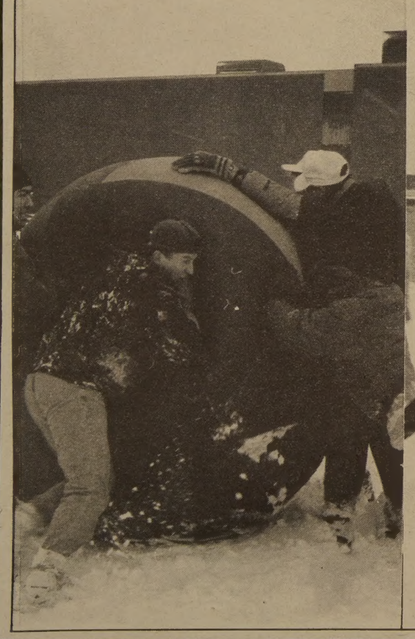
Later that day, red softballs were thrown, hit and caught during the sno-pitch, and small projectiles cut the air at the dart tournament.

Wintercourse continued yesterday with blind volleyball and a Nintendo tournament. Today at 1:30 p.m., there will be a Polar Bear Dip at Lake Gibson and karaoke at After Hours. The event concludes at 3 p.m. with an awards ceremony at After Hours.









SPORTS

Knights hockey team looking towards playoffs

Team shows character in 8-5 win on road

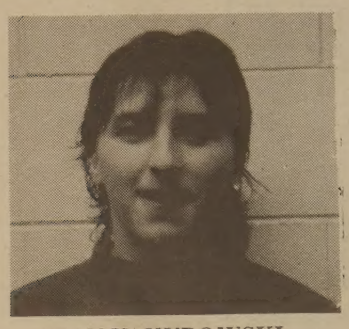
By LLOYD ABBS
Staff Writer

They're playoff bound!

John Anger scored three goals and Derek Rewberry had four assists, as the two Niagara forwards led the Knights to an 8-5 victory Friday over Sir Sandford Fleming in Peterborough.

With the win, Niagara clinched a playoff spot leaving them in a position to play for third place in their respective division.

"I'm happy, it feels good," said Niagara goaltender Dan Yakubowski, who made 53 saves. "The opening period set the precedent and we worked from that."



DAN YAKUBOWSKI

Niagara bolted from the opening faceoff, almost scoring in the first minute as Knights' defenceman Steve Cote stepped over the red line and let a bullet go which hit the left goal post behind first period Fleming goalie Scott Tami. It was all Niagara from there as Brett Bottenfield pulled the trigger, opening the scoring at the 3:50 mark. Anger scored his first of the game just 2:31 later to give the Knights a 2-0 lead. Anger put in his second 2:49 after his first and it was 3-0 Niagara. Chris Bradnam scored shortly after his teammate as Niagara began to pull away. Captain Dale Zimmerman tapped in a pretty pass from winger Steve Andrews to give the Knights a 5-0 lead and Anger got the hat-trick 31 seconds after Zimmerman's goal and it was 6-0. Fleming forward Brian McArthur scored in the final minute of the first to make it 6-1 Niagara after one period.

In the second, Peterborough replied again; this time Mark Bruce scored on the powerplay as the Knights' lead slipped to 6-2. Niagara answered quickly on Mike Emond's goal to re-establish the five-goal lead. Peterborough then replied with two, one late in the second period and another early in the third to cut the lead to 7-4 but Andrew Clark's goal iced the victory despite another late goal by Peterborough with 48 seconds left. The final was 8-5.

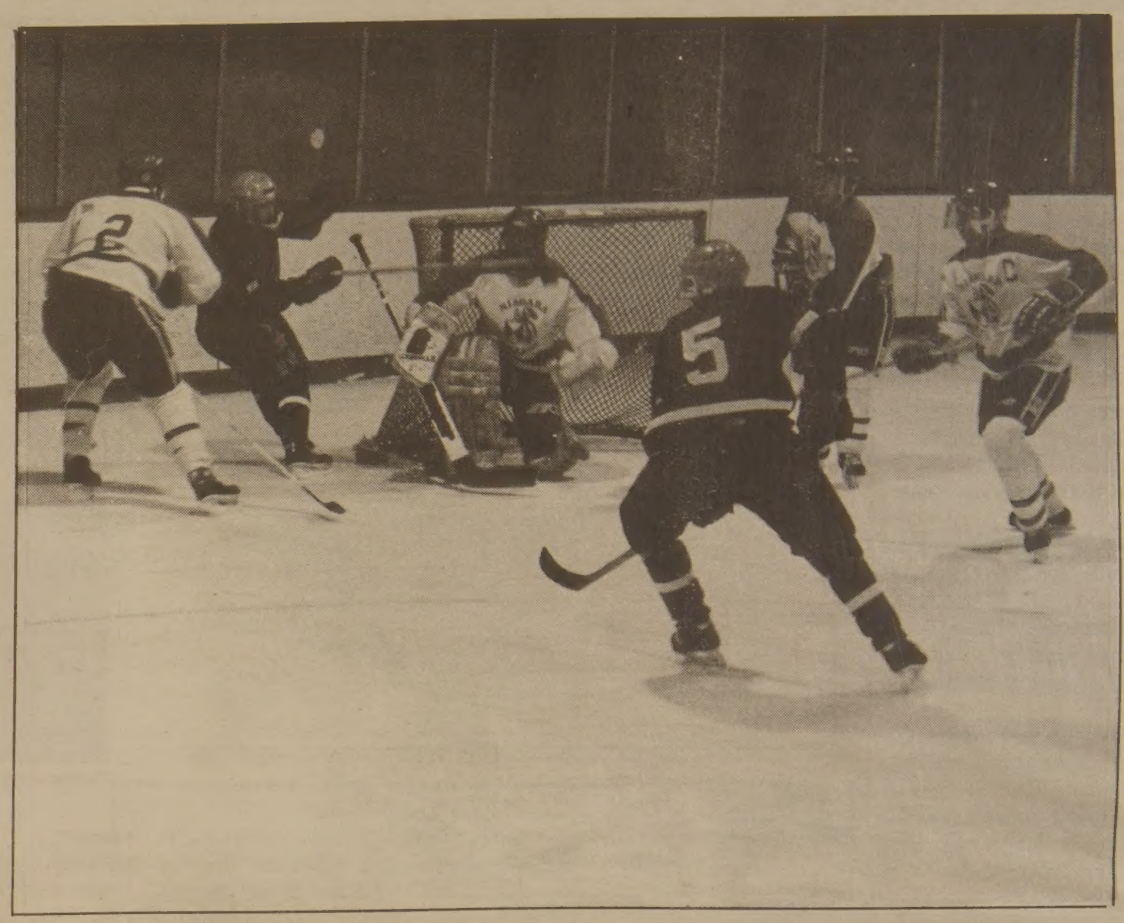
Niagara 8-Fleming 5

"The key to this team is we need to get a jump," said Zimmerman. "We came out flying tonight and Anger was putting the puck in the net."

The win improved the Knights' record to 2-9-4, and 2-1-2 in their last five games.

"It was just a matter of putting the pieces together," said Cote, who had an assist. "As long as we keep playing as a team, we have as good a chance as any. Destiny is in our hands."

The Knights will shoot for third place tomorrow when Sir Sandford Fleming of Lindsay visits the Welland arena at 8 p.m.



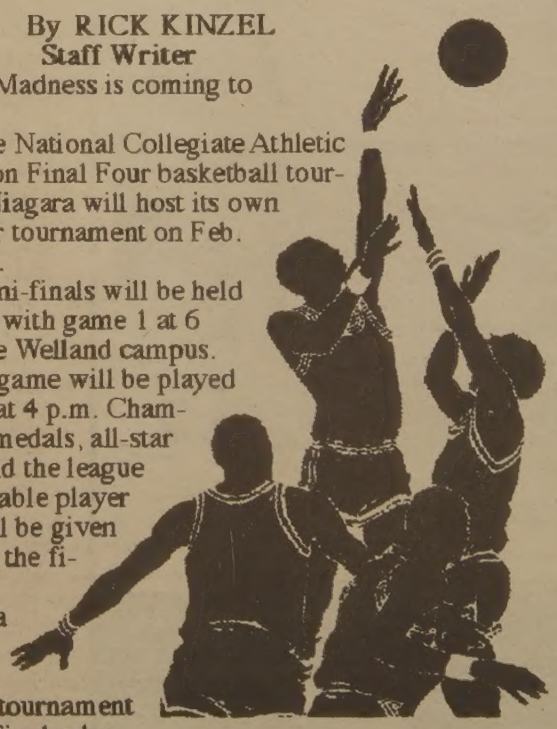
Niagara Knights' goalie Dan Yakubowski prepares for one of 58 shots during Friday's hockey action in Peterborough. Fleming defenceman Dave Asling-Snee sneaks in from the point while Knights' Captain Dale Zimmerman, Steve Cote (2) and Rob Lafleur look on. The Knights won the game 8-5.

Photo by Lloyd Abbs

March Madness on the way

Final Four tourney approaching....

By RICK KINZEL
Staff Writer



March Madness is coming to Niagara.

Like the National Collegiate Athletic Association Final Four basketball tournament, Niagara will host its own Final Four tournament on Feb. 26 and 27.

The semi-finals will be held on Friday with game 1 at 6 p.m. at the Welland campus. The final game will be played Saturday at 4 p.m. Championship medals, all-star awards and the league most valuable player award will be given following the final game.

Niagara is expected to make the tournament although final selection will be announced next week.

Niagara's curling team playoff bound

By JENNIFER HERR
Staff Writer

Niagara College's mixed curling team's two-win, one-loss record was enough to move them into the Ontario playdowns in Ottawa later this month.

The team placed second at the southwestern Ontario division of the Ontario Community College Athletic Association at the Welland Curling Club last weekend, losing their first game 11-8 to Georgian College from Barrie, and winning 13-7 against Mohawk from Hamilton and 5-4 over Fanshawe from London. Georgian's perfect 3-0 record gave them first place in the bonspiel.

Curling

Skip Mike Slatter, vice Tracey Niesen, second Jeff Fraser, and lead Jennifer Herr will compete Feb. 26-28 for the provincial title.

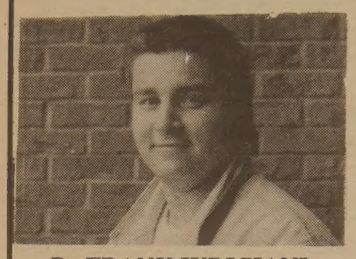
In men's play, the Niagara foursome went 0-5, ending in fifth place. Fanshawe placed first on the men's side of play with a 5-0 record, while Mohawk was second with a 4-1 finish, sending both teams to the provincial competition in Ottawa.

Niagara College's mixed curling team will curl in the provincials. Clockwise from back left are Jeff Fraser, Mike Slatter, Tracey Niesen and Jennifer Herr.

Photo by Sheri Goodman

SPORTS

Leafs' Gilmour all HART this season



By FRANK IUDICIANI
Staff Writer

Is there anyone more valuable to their team than Doug Gilmour is to the Toronto Maple Leafs? Not likely!

Ever since that big 10-player trade which sent Gilmour to the Leafs from Calgary, Toronto has been gaining more and more respect from around the league. His acquisition has started a new era in Toronto.

A winning era!

Toronto has played above .500 hockey since Gilmour's arrival on Jan. 2, 1992. His relentless hustle and determination seems to have rubbed off on his teammates. Not since Darryl Sittler left the Leafs in the 1982 season, has Toronto had a 100-point man to carry the offensive load. Gilmour has given the Leafs this dimension and the results are evident.

What Gilmour lacks in size, he more than makes up with his Hart, as in Hart Trophy. His play this year has definitely installed him as a front-runner as the league's most valuable player.

His stellar two-way play has earned him recognition from hockey experts.

Don Cherry, of Hockey Night in Canada, openly states he believes Gilmour is by far the best two-way player in the world. And he's not alone in that statement.

Leafs' head coach Pat Burns counts on Gilmour to play roughly 35 minutes a game and he has excelled in every aspect of the game. He is on the ice in penalty killing situations, power play opportunities, as well as his regular shift. Gilmour is also one of the best face-off men in the league and Burns hasn't been shy to put him out there in key situations.

Of course, there will always be arguments that Mario Lemieux or Pat Lafontaine should win the Hart Trophy because of their offensive output, but both are one dimensional hockey players. Also, their respective teams don't rely on them as much as the Leafs do on Gilmour. Proof of this has been the Penguins' play despite Lemieux's absence. They have remained dominant and atop the Patrick Division standings by employing a solid, defensive game-plan.

Gilmour's play this season has reminded Leaf fans of glory days past. But one thing is still missing from Toronto: a Hart Trophy winner.

At Division Two playoffs

Men's V-ball team in must win situation

By FRANK IUDICIANI
Staff Writer

It's time to break out those old cliches.

Backs up against the wall! Do or die! Must win situation!

These are the circumstances the Niagara College Knights men's volleyball team find themselves in as they enter the Division Two championships at Redeemer College in Ancaster today.

Niagara, who finished in fourth place with an 8-6 record, will open the tournament against sixth-place Algonquin College of Nepean today at 5 p.m. and will play Cambrian College of Sudbury tomorrow.

Knights' coach Ray Sarkis said he believes Algonquin won't mount much of a challenge but it doesn't mean that they will take them lightly.

"They (Algonquin) are not that strong but this is playoff time and anything could happen," Sarkis said.

Cambrian College placed first in Division Two this year and should give Niagara a rough time.

"We have to be consistent and work as a team," Sarkis said. "They (Cambrian) play to win no matter what."

If the Knights are to advance further into the playoffs, their defensive game must improve. Coincidentally, their best blocking match of the season came in the final regular season match last week at George Brown College.

"If we key on our blocking, we should do well," Sarkis said. "If the defence is there, our offence will be fine."

Sarkis said the team members can't play as individuals and expect to win. Although, he wouldn't mind a repeat performance of Greg Heyder's 17 kill match last week at George Brown College after he was not expected to play because of a shoulder injury. The shoulder is fine now and Sarkis said Heyder will be ready to go tonight.

"There aren't any superstars on this team. It has to be a total team effort, especially on offence. Everyone has to be clicking," Sarkis said. "I have five good, smart hitters. They have to have confidence in themselves and there's no reason they shouldn't have a good weekend."

The gold and silver medal winners will advance to play challenge matches against the fifth and sixth place teams from Division One. The games will be played at Division One schools. The winners of the challenge matches will then travel to Centennial College in Scarborough for the Ontario College's Athletic Association championship on March 5 and 6.

Dave McClary, 35, laces up his rollerblades before tackling the Niagara Boulevard.

Photo by Tanya Hvilivitzky

Rollerblading

Alternative form of exercise

By TANYA HVILIVITZKY
Staff Writer

His hockey stick swings from side to side as his six-foot frame cuts the air at high speed; each movement as exact as the last. With each push-off, his legs feel the strain of a hard work-out; his feet slightly swollen inside his skates.

Dave McClary, 35, is not inside an arena practising for the All Stars — he's rollerblading on the smooth asphalt beside the Niagara River in Fort Erie, Ont.

He skates to his car, puts on his winter boots and heads for home.

The recent fad of roller blading or in-line skating has caught on throughout North America. The once popular traditional rollerskating with the double wheels is fading; in are the sleek, streamlined and smooth roller "blades."

McClary's decision to rollerblade daily for an hour was not because of the craze. He has finally found an alternative form of exercise and physiotherapy for his back injury. McClary suffered a bulged lower disc from a work-related injury four years ago, placing him on workers' compensation benefits.

McClary, a General College program student at Niagara College, has physiotherapy three days weekly and works out at the gym six days weekly.

An avid runner for 15 years, he says his back could no longer take the constant impact of running following the injury.

"Rollerblading provides the same cardiovascular benefits as running, but without the constant pounding on my joints.

"And it's better than running because you have the speed. Running can be boring, but skating along so fast pumps you up."

Rollerblading uses the same muscles as ice skating, says Brad Stairs, program director of the Greater Fort Erie YMCA.

"The push-off motion works the quadraceps and glutes and the recovery motion uses the hamstrings. It also provides strength for the lower back muscles because you're leaning forward," he said.

Stairs said a type of rollerblading was on the market before traditional roller skates, decades ago. Since the double four wheels were easier to use and perhaps more gimmicky, the rollerblades fell by the wayside, he said.

The skates can cost between $50 to $250, but the replacement parts are costly, McClary said.

"It cost me $30 to $40 for four replacement wheels and I go through eight wheels a month. The bearings are usually $30 a skate, so if the wheels aren't kept clean, it could mean new bearings every couple of months."

Although the blades are often used for playing parking lot hockey games, stopping with these skates is altogether different than on ice.

"You can't stop on a dime. You have to lift up your front toe and use the back heel, dragging the rubber brake," McClary said.

McClary, who carries his hockey stick every time he's rollerblading along the road, says it's not for added leverage or balance.

"It's to keep the traffic away...when I'm swinging the stick, cars don't come too close to me."

Stress relief: just a phone call away

By ARLENE ARCH
Staff Writer

It's one of those nerve-racking days that come with being a college student. Everything that could go wrong did, starting this morning when you snagged your new, no-run $7 nylons, until this evening when your alleged roommate left you and a stack of unpaid bills-permanently.

All you can think of now is stripping off today's clothes, taking a hot shower and crawling under your thick, down comforter awaiting sleep bringing this day to an end.

Despite your exhausted, drained body, your mind is active and alert. The anxieties and pressures of maintaining high marks, paying off debts and entering the workforce are keeping you awake and causing you stress.

Nothing seems to calm your nerves. In aggravation you grind your teeth, pull at your hair and curse Mr. Sandman for being so elusive tonight of all nights. You need to talk but it's too late to call a friend.

Fortunately, the Distress Centre of Niagara has a help-line open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year that's available to anyone who needs to call.

Funded by the St. Catharines United Way, the Distress Centre's provision is a no-cost, telephone, confidential, counselling service by trained volunteers to assist anyone in need in the Niagara Region. No office consultations are scheduled with the counsellors. All cases are handled over the phone.

Calls are received by 75 to 90 trained counsellors who volunteer at their leisure.

Margaret Elliott, director of the Distress Centre, said the counsellors usually receive between 550 and 600 calls a month. However, in January 1993, the centre received 668 calls. "The number of calls has increased because of the poor economic conditions, the uncertainty, doom and gloom," said Elliott.

The counsellors emphasize callers shouldn't take life's hard blows personally and should not give up.

Callers can reach the Distress Centre by calling 688-3711 in St. Catharines or the help-line sponsored by the south United Way in Welland at 734-1212.

Three students take new positions on committee

International Student Association

By HENRY MALUNDA
Staff Writer

The executive committee of the International Student Association (ISA) has recently changed its members.

Entertainment co-ordinator Sam Mutahar has been relieved of his duties effective Jan. 4, the association's president, Dag Tesfaye recently announced.

"Sam misunderstood his duties, missed a lot of meetings and was scared of asking for help," said Tesfaye. "I talked to him, gave him a chance but he couldn't give an explanation, so we finally decided to fire him."

"He was not able to carry out his work," said Kallol Chakraborty, ISA's sports co-ordinator, at a recent meeting of the committee.

"He just didn't seem to have the time for the committee's activities," said Carlos Alfaro, the association's vice-president.

Mutahar, who enrolled in the first-year Business Accounting program last fall, could not be reached for comment. Although he was seen around the campus earlier this semester, the registrar's office has no record of his registration.

Mutahar's position has been filled by Abdul Ahmad, a Building Construction Engineering program student.

In another development, Henry Malunda is the new committee secretary, replacing Nicky Gumirato, who withdrew from college at the end of last semester. Malunda is in the Journalism-Print program.

Sophia Chen, a student in the General College program, is the committee's new treasurer, replacing Amy Chen, who enrolled at Brock University earlier this winter.

Horticulture

Annual show

By SAMANTHA MAGILL
Staff Writer

The annual horticultural show by Niagara College's Horticultural Centre will open its doors March 20 and March 21.

"We hope to attract 5,000 people from the region," said Tom Ball, co-ordinator of the college's horticultural program.

The show, staged at the centre's facilities at 360 Niagara St., St. Catharines, will exhibit different displays of plants, flowers and other foliage the first and second-year horticultural program students have developed. Each student has prepared for the open house since the school year began.

The exhibits are a positive aspect of the course because they are used as teaching aids to show development, timing and problems with certain crops, said Ball.

Many of the students will be selling "reasonably priced" potted plants such as chrysanthemums, geraniums, and hanging baskets they have worked on in practical horticulture.

"The students' displays must be up to standard to attract people," said Ball. "The show will also give the students experience handling the general public."

Exhibitions include a coffee and donut room turned into a tropical paradise, an educational kiddies corner, displays on grafting planting, flowering bulbs planted in September. Admission is free of charge.

The Orchid Society, Cactus Succulent Society, Garden City Horticultural Society and New Organic Growers Association will also display information booths to attract new members and educate the public.

The End of the Year Sale

at the bookstore
Welland Campus

From March 8th to 26th

* In Stock Textbooks 10% Off
* All Hats 20% Off
* All 25th Anniversary T-Shirts & Sweatshirts 50% Off

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

Bookstore Ext.7585

HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO
FONDATION DES MALADIES DU COEUR DE L'ONTARIO

Protesters 'fighting for a working future'

By PATRICK ASELSTINE
Staff Writer

The words "Standing, united, fighting for a working future" echoed through downtown Welland last Saturday as members of the Fighting For a Working Future Coalition walked from Cross Street to city hall where they held a rally and demonstration.

The coalition, whose chairpersons are from labor, government and business, was founded Jan. 30 in St. Catharines because of concern for the increasing number of plant closures and layoffs, particularly those at General Motors.

"I've been working with the coalition since it was formed. I was at their conference two weekends ago in St. Catharines," said Peter Kormos, MPP for Welland-Thorold. "We're in this regional municipality and what affects St. Catharines certainly affects Welland. Welland has faced the dismal prospect of job loses so we're talking about families who are concerned about their province and their country and their future."

Most attending the rally blamed Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and free trade for the loss of more than 400,000 manufacturing jobs in Canada since January 1989.

"As far as I'm concerned, Brian Mulroney and the boys are traitors. They've sold out this country for the sake of transnational corporate interests," said Dana Tweddell, 43, an unemployed member of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 105 in Hamilton.

Members of the Fighting For a Working Future Coalition marched through Welland Saturday before holding a rally and protest outside city hall. The coalition's aim is to have the federal government address the problem of lost industrial jobs in the area.

Photo by Patrick Aselstine

"No two ways about it. I mean, Free Trade has ravaged industrial Ontario and now, with the prospect and reality of a Mexico-U.S.A.-Canada so-called agreement, we're going to see more jobs robbed from Ontario and Canadian workers," said Kormos.

Wearing purple ribbons as a symbol for action and hope in their campaign for economic renewal, members and supporters of the coalition walked up Division Street to East Main Street before stopping at city hall for a demonstration. Many of the speakers from labor and government, when noting recent layoffs and plant closures, made reference to how Welland has changed.

"I remember the forge hammers keeping me awake at night and I didn't seem to mind it back then. Now, everything is keeping me awake, I think, because it's too quiet," said Welland councillor Gerry Bisson.

Canada has lost more than 400,000 manufacturing jobs since 1989, 15,000 of them auto related, said Jim O'Neil, national secretary treasurer of the CAW.

"And yet you pick up the paper occasionally and some bright economist says that the recession's over. I'm not sure where he's at, because he's not in this country," said O'Neil.

Port Colborne Mayor Bob Saracino, a coalition chairperson, talked of Algoma Steel and Canada Cement, both of which have closed, and Inco, which once had more than 3,000 employees, but now has 360. He urged Mulroney to visit the area.

"Come here. Come to Niagara. Come to Hamilton to see the devastation that is taking place to our brothers and sisters. Forget what is happening in Mexico," said Saracino.

Several politicians pledged their support for the coalition, assuring members that their concerns will be addressed.

"No one has to remind me that I'm an MPP because you labor got me elected. I'll never forget who brought me to the dance," said Shirley Coppen, MPP for Niagara South. "Our government does care about your pain and your fear of the future."

Unemployed Welland resident Mike Bishop, 22, spoke of his "frustration" and concerns about the future.

"Young people like me deserve a future with a job. I'm here to plead to all levels of government and the private sector alike. I am able and willing to work. I'm a proud Canadian that wants and deserves a job in the Niagara peninsula — not in South Carolina or Arkansas or Mexico," Bishop said.

Kormos agreed with demonstrators who felt many politicians were out of touch with the people they are supposed to represent.

"We're going to give messages to government that they better start paying attention and they better start listening to the hard-working people — the women and men who made this country and this province great," said Kormos. "A few of those politicians better get out of their limousines and start talking to the people who put them in Queen's Park or Parliament Hill."

The coalition gave Gib Parent, MP for Welland-St. Catharines-Thorold, a petition to take to Ottawa.

"Your message will be heard, not only on the steps of Parliament, but inside Parliament itself and I will be the one who brings it there," said Parent.

The coalition has a rally planned for March 27 in Hamilton. CAW Local 199 spokesman and coalition co-chair Sandy O'Dell was to meet with federal Trade Minister Michael Wilson yesterday to discuss the future of GM's Glendale Avenue foundary, scheduled to close in the fall of 1994.

"It's a start. We're on our way. We're going to be going to Hamilton next month and we're going to build this thing up so that one day we're going to be on the doorsteps of Ottawa, really, presenting our case. That's really where we need to go," said O'Dell.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

Welland Campus

In Lundy Hall Room 21 (Near Mini-cafe)

Your family physician away from home

Services Available

- Medical assessment and treatment
- Annual health examination (physicals)
- Birth control counselling
- Pregnancy test
- Counselling for weight control
- Alcohol use, smoking or any health concern
- Allergy shots and immunization
- Wart treatment
- Suture removal
- Referrals to outside health agencies

Health Service Hours

Physician's hours : Mondays and Thursdays
9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Nursing hours : Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily

Mack Centre

Room 22
Mondays : 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

St. Catharines Room 141

Tuesdays and Wednesdays
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Hospitality and Tourism Centre

Counselling Office
Thursdays 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Services Available

- Birth control counselling
- Pregnancy test
- Counselling for weight control
- Sexuality Issues
- Alcohol use, smoking or any personal health problem
- Immunization
- Referrals to outside health agencies
- Nursing assessment referrals

Meet your nurse, Wendy Hopgood at these locations

Malcom X is still an impact on blacks, young and old

By TROY CLARKE
Staff Writer

Malcolm X was many things in his short life.

He was a drug pusher, pimp, thief and a hoodlum, but he died a martyr struggling against a militancy he spent 12 years of his life promoting.

Feb. 21, marks the 27th anniversary of Malcolm X's assassination at a Harlem ballroom, where, speaking to supporters, he said he no longer condemned the whole United States white population, but rather a smaller section of white supremacists.

Malcolm X was 40 years old.

It was while in prison for his many crimes, he was introduced to the Islamic religion and the name Elijah Muhammad, whom he referred to later as a "savior."

And although his killers denied any connection with the Nation of Islam, the group in which Malcolm X eventually became a leader, it is widely believed the militant group ordered his assassination.

Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little, a name "some blue-eyed devil named Little had imposed upon my paternal forbearers," in Omaha, Neb., in 1925, the son of a Baptist preacher. When Malcolm X was four his family moved to Lansing, Mich., where his father began rallying blacks to form a tighter community.

His father's efforts resulted in his home being burnt to the ground by a group of white supremacists; Two years later Earl Little was found dead on the trolley tracks outside East Lansing. Malcolm X's claims of foul play at the supremacists' hands went unheeded.

This event had a profound impact on Malcolm X, leading to crimes on the streets of Detroit, Mich., New York, N.Y., and Boston, Mass. His crimes eventually led to his ten-year prison term in 1946.

But more importantly, his father's murder sparked his hatred for whites, whom he called "devils."

Unlike Martin Luther King Jr., who believed blacks' rights could be achieved through peaceful means, Malcolm X preached violent uprisings with use of force; he proposed a "separate society for blacks."

However, in 1964 during a pilgrimage to Mecca, the Islamic shrine in Saudi Arabia, Malcolm X's views began to change. In a letter to the press describing his pilgrimage he wrote that he was "spellbound by the graciousness I see all around me by people of all colors.

"People of all races, colors, from all over the world coming together as one. It has proved to me the power of one God," he wrote in April 1964.

Malcolm X, who then broke from the Nation of Islam, began judging people by their words and actions, not by the color of their skin. He also began denouncing Muhammad, which may have led to his death.

"In Mecca I had played back for myself the 12 years I had spent with Elijah Muhammad as if it were a motion picture," he wrote in his autobiography.

"I guess it would be impossible for anyone ever to realize fully how complete was my belief in Elijah Muhammad...I realize now how very dangerous it is for people to hold any human being in such esteem."

'People of all races, colors, from all over the world coming together as one'

In 1993 the historical impact of Malcolm X is making a resurgence. The release of Spike Lee's film biography provides Malcolm X's image, old and new, which is now seen everywhere: on hats, T-shirts and posters. But even more significantly, he is seen in the eyes of blacks, young and old, around the world, struggling for the same ideals he did.

Oprah gets Jackson to spill all during interview

By HENRY MALUNDA
Staff Writer

American pop music star Michael Jackson, dismissed longtime media tabloid stories about his cosmetic surgeries, skin bleaching and sex life in a live ABC-TV show broadcast to millions of viewers on Feb. 10.

Conducted by talk-show hostess Oprah Winfrey, and broadcast from Jackson's $22-million ranch north of Santa Barbara, Calif., the interview also yielded revelations that Jackson came from an abused childhood background.

Now 34, Jackson, one of nine children in his family, said his father beat him and told him he looked ugly with his acneyed face.

He said his skin looks lighter because of a skin disorder,

"I have a skin disorder that destroys the pigmentation of the skin," he said, adding it's something he inherited from his father.

"It's something that I cannot help. When people make up stories that I don't want to be who I am, it hurts me. . . . I'm proud to be a black American. I love my race."

Jackson said his skin problem began soon after a recording of his album, Thriller, in 1983. He said he was surprised people who bask in the sun to change their skin color do not get the same attention he is getting. However, he admitted having had "just very little" cosmetic surgeries on his face.

Admitting that he is living a lonely life as a result of being famous, Jackson hesitated to confirm speculations that he might be a virgin.

"I'm a gentleman, that's something private, which shouldn't be spoken openly," he said.

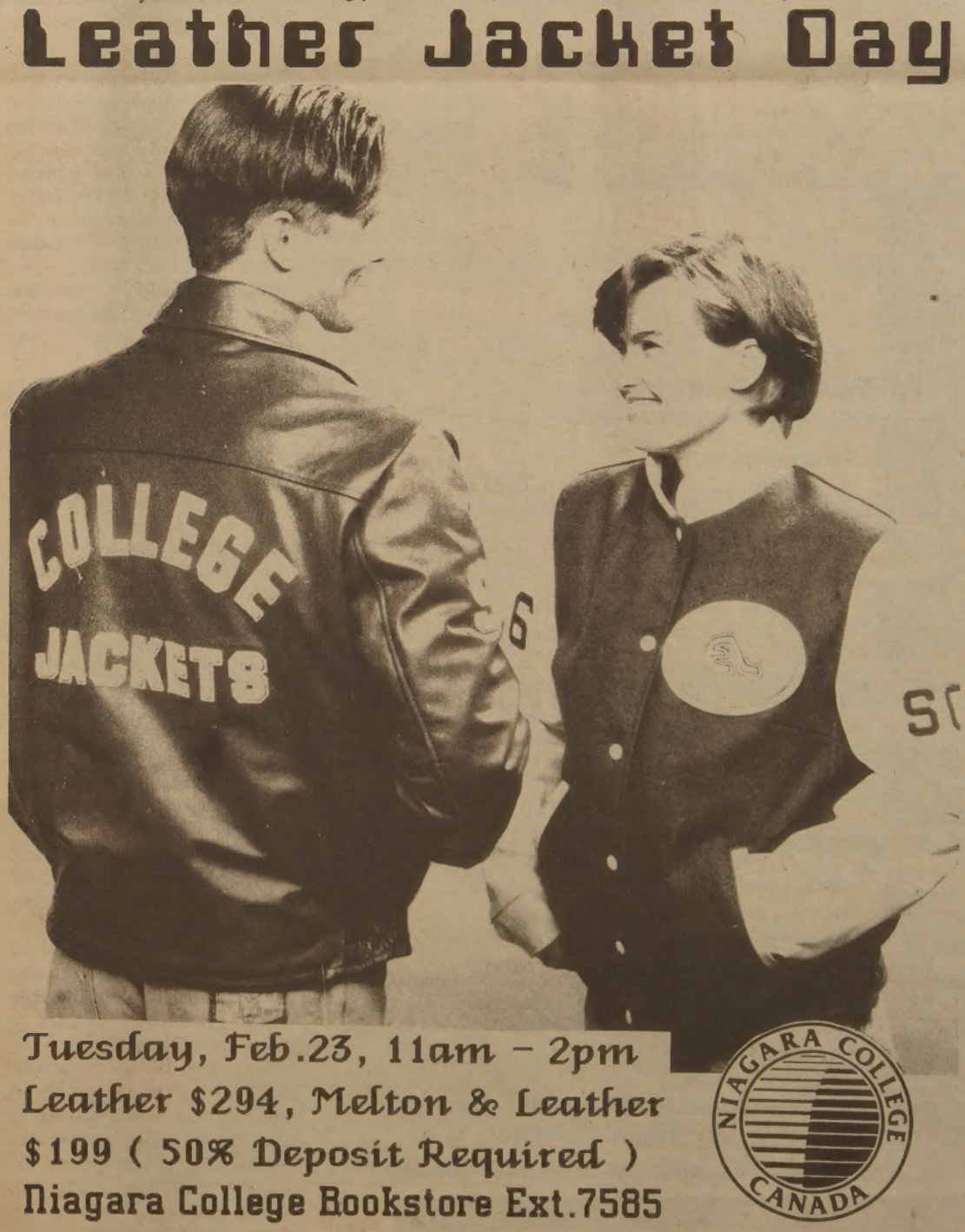
He said he is dating actress Brook Shields, and that they meet either at his home or at hers because they both "lead private lives." He also said at one time, he fell in love with singer Diana Ross, and actress Elizabeth Taylor.

Responding to a question about his plans for getting married, Jackson said he would like to marry someday because of his love for children.

". . . but I cannot now because I'm married to my work."

Jackson has long been a subject of facination for the American media because of the reclusive nature of his life, and a dramatic body transformation from a dark colored skin to a fair one. He is also alleged to be sleeping in an oxygen chamber to control aging.

The 90-minute interview with Jackson was his first live TV interview in about 14 years.



A psychological thriller: The Vanishing is for you

By KATHERINE AGNEW
Staff Writer

It is a movie of coincidences; mishap incidents that build into a nail-biting, suspenseful story. So for some movie-goers, "The Vanishing" is a film worth seeing.

The movie is a remake of a 1988 Dutch film and stars Jeff Bridges, Keifer Sutherland, and Nancy Travis.

Sutherland is Jeff Harriman, whose girlfriend mysteriously disappears from a highway gas station during a vacation. Jeff searches for Diane for three years, driven by a fierce obsession to know what happened to her.

Eventually, he meets strong-willed Rita (Travis), who seems destined to help Jeff forget Diane and resolve his own fears. Coincidently, it is then that Diane's captor, Barney (Bridges), contacts Jeff and offers him an impossible choice: a chance to find out what happened to Diane. Now the movie races to its awaited confrontation between Jeff and Barney and its dramatic ending, while coincidences continue to build.

The audience, however, was privy to scenes leading to Barney's confrontation with Jeff, and saw the background to his violent, nerdy character. Bridges immersed himself into his odd, dangerous character, adopting a haunting speech pattern and hand gestures.

REVIEW

Despite excellent performances by the three stars, including Travis, whose character's warmth and intelligence was very believable on the screen, the movie did suffer from some predictability. There were times when the audience could have foreseen the outcome without actually seeing it; we have seen many like it.

And yet, the tension did build; hands were being held tightly, stomachs nervously clenched up, and screams did escape from the back rows of the theatre. If that sounds appealing, then the psychological thriller "The Vanishing" is for you.

Tourism Centre uses 'spicy' demonstrations to boost business

By KAREN KRANJAC
Staff Writer

Spicy demonstrations are heating up business at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls, Ont.

About 20 tour operators from across the United States visited the centre Feb. 5 to experience one of the Niagara Falls tours to ensure their hands-on opinions of what is offered. Niagara Falls Tours developed this tour with the centre over a six-month interval.

"They're on a familiarization tour and hopefully this will become an attraction over the years," said David Davies, director at the centre. "We hope this will become a regular part of the college."

This new development will not only generate money for the centre but for the city of Niagara Falls by bringing business to the restaurants and motels. This tour was tested and now it's time to go commercially, said Davies.

"The key point to this tour is behind the scenes which makes this work," he said.

The demonstration of food preparation and cooking was conducted by Patrick Hogan, manager of food and services, who later brought the operators into the industrial-sized kitchen to cook what they had been taught.

"We are all tour operators and now we are going to see what it's like by trying it all out," said tour operator, Carol Love of Greensberg, Pa. "I'm so enthusiastic about this.

"You know every operator here is thinking about who they can sell this to when they get home."

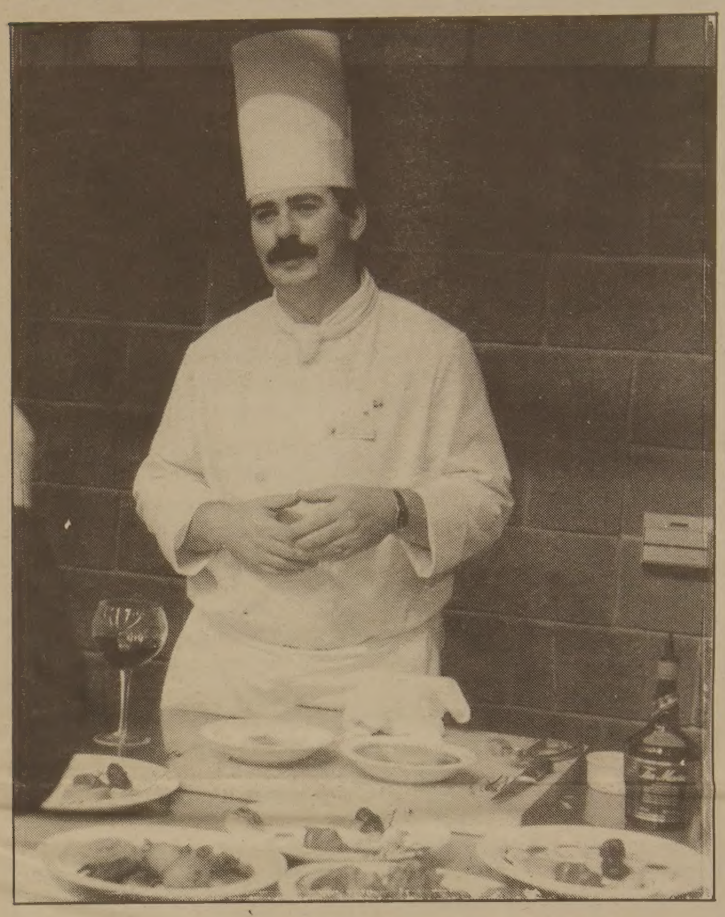
Angelika Whitham, director of marketing at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake, said it was a fabulous idea.

"There is nothing like eating, drinking and talking to people, but the trick is to steal a little taste of whatever it is you're preparing," said Whitham.

Students learn how to peform in a demonstration and to teach others food preparation.

"These people are tour operators from the United States who will be sending people here," said Hogan. " It's exposure into the U.S. market."

The centre has already booked tours in July, October and December.



Patrick Hogan, food and beverages manager, demonstrates food preparation for tour operators from the United States last Friday at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre.
Photo by Karen Kranjac

College holds NAFTA talk

If you want to know more about the North American Free Trade Agreement, Niagara College is the place to be this weekend.

The Niagara Area Labor Councils and Niagara College Labor Studies will hold a two-day conference at the Welland campus tonight and tomorrow.

Dick Martin, secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Labor Congress is the keynote speaker. A number of workshops and debates will involve speakers from Canada, the United States, Mexico and Central America.

Tickets are $30 with a limited number of reduced rate scholarships available for full-time students and the unemployed. For ticket information call Sherri Rosen at 735-2211, extension 7736 or 646-8107.

Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film news program makes 1993 debut

By DENNIS FAST
Staff Writer

Second-year students of Niagara College's Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film program are presenting a live 30-minute news and information program.

The program, called Inside Niagara, made its 1993 debut yesterday afternoon on the local Maclean Hunter Cable TV stations. The program will be shown live every Thursday at noon until April 29, with the exception of March 4, which is Niagara College's study week.

The show, which will be co-hosted by Colin Bannister and Carina Myllynen, will include news, entertainment, sports, special features and in-depth reports on local events. Bannister and Myllynen will be joined by newscasters Delissa Clifford and Jim Werner. Sports will be presented by Ken Mann, and Lynda Walter and Andrew Keltos will present entertainment.

Inside Niagara will be shown in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Pelham, Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Thorold. Each show will be re-broadcast every Thursday evening at 6:30.

Chef's efforts awarded

By KAREN KRANJAC
Staff Writer

The 13th annual President's Dinner and Awards Evening was held Feb. 6 at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls, Ont.

About 150 people attended the gala event to honor various award recipients. Master of Ceremonies, Albert Cipryk, an instructor at the centre, explained what the Canadian Chef de Cuisine (CCC) represents in the Niagara Region.

"We work together to feed millions of people who come to the Niagara Region," he said.

Chef de Cuisine certificates and 10-karat gold pins were presented to Paul A. Albert, chef at Auberge Suisse in St. Catharines, Mary A. Moore, sous chef at the Pillar and Post Inn, Niagara-on-the Lake and a part-time instructor at the centre, David Wayne Lidkea, chef at the Holiday Inn St. Catharines, Walter Graham Berg, sous chef at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Mark Rodney Walpole, executive chef at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Gisela Teske, chef at the Hotel Dieu Hospital in St. Catharines, S. Jake Neufeld, executive chef at Bonefish Louies in Burlington and a part-time instructor at the centre, Stanley S.D. Pockaj and John McCabe, both instructors.

The Niagara Industry Training Advisory Corporation (NITAC) was given recognition and an appreciation award for its support in the Chef de Cuisine program.

The Kari Gehriger Award Apprentice of the Year was awarded to Connie Clement, a student in Baking and Pastry Skills, Chief Marine Skills, Marine Cook and Culinary Entrepreneur Skills courses.

"She was chosen for her academic standing, job performance, and chosen by peers and executives," said Patrick Hogan, manager of food and beverages.

The menu included smoked breast of duck with peach chutney, lobster consomme en croute, sorbet, roast pork tenderloin, baby lettuce with a Chardonay vinaigrette and a three-flavored souffle.

WANTED — Actors, actresses. All ages. For two student films by Broadcast-Radio, Television and Film program students. Call 892-7869 any time.

Restructuring: a cast of characters

By TANYA HVILIVITZKY
Staff Writer

Restructuring — the buzzword of the 90s.

Possibly the most (over)used word in Canada, other than downsizing. Its meaning is clouded by motives. It remains an enigmatic blend of good and evil. A fascinating, fun word where its message alters if it is whispered or proclaimed. Where the "r" word is spoken — the message is clear at an automobile factory, but what about at educational institutions?

What is the parentage of restructuring? Who is its mother? Who's its father? The tale is a convoluted one with many players.

Thus follows the cast of characters.

NDP, CSAC, PLA, Vision 2000, OTAB, OPSEU, ACAATO, CAAT and Council of Regents. Secret codes within and outside the educational system? No. Each a vital branch of the monumental task of re-assessing, re-affirming and restructuring the foundations of Ontario's educational services. We will show how each is involved in the ongoing change today.

The Ontario Liberal government in 1988 brought the Council of Regents, a policy and planning agency reporting to the ministry of colleges and universities, into the fray.

Then-minister Lyn McLeod asked the council to research how Ontario's college system should look by the year 2000. Stakeholders were brought to the collaborative process: college education, schools, universities, students, employers, labor and government representatives.

The 1990 report, entitled Vision 2000: Quality and Opportunity, set out 40 recommendations on general education, access, prior learning assessment (PLA), standards (CSAC) and alternative delivery (restructuring).

Push has come to shove. Colleges have to change their business conduct, the report outlines, due to demographic and economic trends, an aging workforce, industrial "downsizing", technological innovation and the need to upgrade the Canadian workforce's basic literacy and numeracy skills.

The report's dual focus is the quality of college-delivered career education and advancing opportunities for students to participate.

At the helm, then and now, is Charles Pascal, Premier Bob Rae's close friend. Pascal was the former Council of Regents chairman and Vision 2000 steering committee chairman. He's now deputy minister in the new superministry of Education and Training.

Driving the need for change were Ontario's financial and resulting unemployment woes, coupled with less operating grants decreed by government.

With an eye to 2000, Rae greenlighted the College Standards and Accreditation Council (CSAC) to improve the quality and curriculum consistency of offered programs. He said a system of prior learning assessment (PLA) for adult learners would be implemented taking into credit previous work experience as admission qualifications.

Last December, former colleges and universities minister Richard Allen addressed post-secondary institution presidents (ACAATO — Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario). He stressed the colleges' critical role in Ontario's economic growth, encouraging them to expand by 30 per cent with reduced resources.

Putting life into many of Vision 2000's recommendations, the Council of Regents' steering committee on restructuring issued an agenda of change. Individual colleges were invited to participate by bidding for funding to analyse the options.

Next into the fray came OPSEU (Ontario Public Service Employees Union) with the Marcotte Task Force, part of a new collective agreement. The challenge: provide "quality education in a fiscally responsible manner."

Opinion

The Regents' steering committee outlined six themes for restructuring: alternative delivery, including self-directed learning; program rationalization; retention; college system relations with the Ontario Training Adjustment Board (OTAB); system-wide sharing of resources and changing the academic year.

So was born Niagara College's administrators' proposal for a 36-week academic year. A touchy issue, but a small piece of the larger puzzle.

This college has formed a Restructuring Initiatives Team to "brainstorm" on delivery, efficiencies, facilities, equipment, rationalization and consolidation.

OPSEU Local 242, representing Niagara's full-time faculty, is concerned college management's tunnel vision ends at the bottom line. They argue educational quality and jobs could be threatened by program rationalization, large lecture classes using high technology methods, systematic use of part-time staff to reduce full-time faculty teaching hours and instructor-free instructional methods in self-directed learning.

A rose by any other name is a rose. Is restructuring so? Are colleges and provincial government officers using the same definition? The government's eloquent rhetoric includes: quality, access, opportunities; the colleges': fiscal, rationalization, budget, no money to pay the bills. Is the bottom line taking priority over quality?

The only thing constant is change — but at what cost? Perhaps the most disconcerting aspect is the sweeping nature of this process. The upheaval is sudden and unexpected for most. Suspicion is the product.

Change should be rational, well thought out and well costed out. It shouldn't be a sideshow for people to watch management run faster only to stay in place or fall behind.

It should not be a whispered "restructuring" in hallowed halls when the changes are controversial and wide-reaching.

Can quality education be cost effective? The answer to that and what changes lay ahead for Niagara College is still to come.

So too does a more lucid definition of the "r" word.

ERSN students learning to teach

By ROGER STROOP
Staff Writer

A group of 47 first-year Education Resource-Special Needs students were throwing basketballs around and acting like animals outside the library at the Welland campus last Thursday morning.

But they weren't just fooling around.

The students were learning how to teach physical education games to children, said Elvira Lucas, ERSN co-ordinator. They were put into six groups and asked to come up with games they could teach the class.

They had learned theory about teaching games to children at primary and junior levels, Lucas said, and on this day the students were actually putting some of that theory into practice.

Three groups presented primary and three presented junior level games, she said, with one student from each group acting as a teacher.

The playing of the games, which included a relay race with basketballs and a game where students acted out the motions described in a story, was intended to help students hone teaching techniques, Lucas said.

"We learned more (through this activity) than by sitting in a classroom," student Doreen Lawrie said.

"We enjoyed ourselves," added student Debbie Luken.

Because of the unavailability of the gymnasium, the students were forced to conduct their games in the halls.

"'Resource' is in the name of our program, so we're being resourceful," student Denise Hopkins said.

This day of activities was "a lead-up," Lucas said, to a point later in the term where each student must present an activity. She said she hopes the gymnasium will be available for that event, but if it isn't, the activities may have to be conducted off-campus.

Classified

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